



## 6. MITIGATION STRATEGY

### 6.1 Hazard Mitigation Goals, Objectives and Actions

#### Hazard Mitigation Goals

**Requirement:** §201.4(c)(3)(i): [The mitigation strategy shall include a] description of State goals to guide the selection of activities to mitigate and reduce potential losses.

Since the original Plan was approved, the Mitigation Office has undergone several staff and organizational changes. These changes posed challenges as well as opportunities. During this planning effort, the Planning Team and Mitigation Staff were at a disadvantage regarding obtaining back-up documentation and the thought processes behind some of the planning tasks (most specifically, the actions). However, the opportunity to gain knowledge and improve upon this Plan, using the original as a foundation was obvious. We had access to several useful tools and methods from FEMA and our own agency, ADEM. FEMA was most helpful by providing us with feedback on our original Plan and suggestions for improvement to ensure it more closely reflected the unique nature of Arizona.

During the past two years, the original Plan Goal and Objectives have been the topic of many discussions within ADEM. After close examination of this section, it was evident that major changes were in order for the Hazard Mitigation Goals, Objectives and Actions. The two major reasons the necessary changes are:

- Goals 5 – 12 are all the same with the exception of the hazard identified in each individual goal.
- Goals 9 & 12 address Disease and Terrorism, which has been eliminated from this planning effort.

For reference, the original Plan goals were:

1. Promote disaster-resistant future development.
2. Promote public understanding, support and demand for hazard mitigation.
3. Build and support local capacity and commitment to continuously become less vulnerable to hazards.
4. Improve hazard mitigation coordination and communication with federal, state, local and tribal governments.
5. Implement policies, procedures and regulations which reduce the exposure to flood hazards.
6. Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people, critical facilities/infrastructure and State-owned facilities due to wildland fires.
7. Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people, critical facilities/infrastructure and State-owned facilities, due to severe weather (tropical storms/hurricanes, thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes/high winds, dust storms, snow/ice/hail and extreme temperatures.
8. Reduce damage and loss to people and property, due to drought.
9. Reduce damage and loss to people and property, due to disease.
10. Reduce damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people, critical facilities/infrastructure and State-owned facilities, due to geological hazards.
11. Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people, critical facilities/infrastructure and State-owned facilities, due to hazardous materials.
12. Protect all of Arizona's citizens and residents from potential terrorists attack and all other critical hazards.

The State's mitigation mission is "*Reduce the risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards.*" Because we feel our mission is all encompassing, we adopted it as our one and only goal for this Plan. This new goal resulted in developing objectives that are clearer and helped place our actions in a more understandable manner. The actions are discussed in 6.4 of this section. The new objectives are:

1. Reduce or eliminate risks that threaten Arizona's citizens.
2. Reduce risk to critical facilities and infrastructure from natural and human-caused hazards.
3. Promote hazard mitigation throughout the State.
4. Assist local jurisdictions in implementing/sustaining their mitigation programs.
5. Increase public awareness of Arizona's hazards and risks.
6. Pursue hazard mitigation project funding sources.